

MINUTES OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING
August 17, 2005

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montano called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montano led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Chair Eleanor R. Montano
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank S. Bacio
John A. Hammargren
Maxine B. Russell

Excused Absence

Vito Cannella
Carl E. Moore

Others Present

Jennifer Lehman, Deputy
County Counsel
Jim Corbett, Asst. Chief,
Commission Services

Sherry Scates, Commission Staff
Detta Roberts, Commander,
Sheriff's Department
Dave Gutierrez, Sergeant,
Sheriff's Department
Astrid McDuffee, Sheriff's Department
Dr. Michael Maloney, Program Head,
Women's Mental Health, Twin
Towers, DMH
Cora Fullmore, Deputy Dir., Adult &
Juvenile Justice Program, DMH
Candace Rhue, Auditor-Controller
Cheryl Epps, DCFS
Kathy New, Probation
Stacey Savelle, Consultant,
Mentoring Program

MENTORING PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Stacey Savelle, Mentoring Program Consultant for DCFS, gave the following overview of the County Mentoring Program for at-risk group home youth and foster children:

- DCFS and Probation have developed a three phased Mentoring Business Plan to work toward the goal of providing opportunities for matching all appropriate foster and group home youth with a Mentor by 2010;
- The target population is 10 years old or more for DCFS youth in group homes for 2 or more years and transition aged foster teens;
- The target population for Probation would be youth 16 years old or more that are in group homes and who do not have a family member identified for reunification or long-term relative care, and transition aged foster teens;
- Working with numerous County and community based mentoring programs, this program will include one-on-one relationship building, group and peer mentoring; senior sponsors; job shadowing; and academic and career mentoring; and
- The County will educate the mentoring community about the unique needs of foster and group home youth and will assist community-based programs in developing and acquiring the resources and support they need to flourish.

Ms. Savelle invited Commissioners and responsible community members to get involved; interested individuals may contact: Bill Gay, DCFS Mentor Director at 213/351-0106 or Suzy Moraes, Probation Mentor Coordinator at 562/491-5851.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Savelle for her excellent presentation.

DISCUSSION FOCUS – METROPOLITAN STATE HOSPITAL

Chair Montano advised that Commissioners met with the retiring Director of Metropolitan State Hospital, William Silva, and his staff and conducted an inspection of the facility on July 11th. The Commissioners' inspection was limited by time and the vast size of the facility. Chair Montano gave Mr. Silva a list of questions to which Joe Becerra, Acting Director, responded with a voluminous packet referring to various hospital rules and regulations. Chair Montano briefly reviewed this response packet and copies were distributed. Chair Montano noted that some of the responses differ from

negative media reports and problems at the facility which were brought to the Commissions' attention by CSW's, staff members, guardians/parents of patients and numerous other sources. Commissioners advised that they have relayed their concerns to law enforcement regarding specific alleged incidents at Metro and received confirmation that incident reports are not being filed with the department by Metro staff.

Commissioner Hammargren asked Ms. Fullmore that now that these problems at Metro have come to light through the Department of Justice, numerous news articles, and reports from the Commission and others, what is the DMH doing to protect the County's youth at that facility from all the alleged problems that have been reported. Cora Fullmore, DMH, advised that she has not heard this information in DMH leadership meetings and suggested that the Commission submit their concerns regarding the difficulties at Metro to a higher authority. She offered to furnish contact information for the State Department of Mental Health and the Department of Justice. She will also contact the DMH Deputy Director who is responsible for youth programs and wants to find out who the CSW's are that are not reporting incidents, etc. and will report back.

Dr. Michael Maloney, Twin Towers, stated that from the jails' experience Metro has been cooperative when inmates are referred to Metro.

Kathy New, Probation, stated that her Department doesn't have a large number of youth at Metro at any one time, but stated the even though she knows that incidents occur at Metro, her Department does not receive incident reports; she noted that Metro is not required to send incident reports to Probation. Ms. New advised that her Department never assumes that sex is consensual and all such incidents that they made aware of are investigated and reported to all applicable Departments.

Commissioners thanked the various department representatives for their invaluable participation and their knowledgeable responses. Commissioners complemented everyone on their dedication and willingness to assist the Commission.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES ON FACILITY OPERATIONS

Sheriff's Department: Commander Detta Roberts stated that the Department is moving forward with plans to move female inmates to CRDF

in December '05. Commander Roberts passed the Commissions' request to tour the CRDF facility prior to opening or shortly thereafter on to Commander Yem.

Probation Department: Kathy New reported that the Barber Program is now operable in two facilities and distributed program information to Commissioners.

Auditor-Controller: Candace Rhue reported that a facility/environmental audit was done on August 27th on the Creative Learning Group Home. No improvements have been made and no problems have been corrected, therefore, and that facility is now on Administrative Hold and all youth have been removed from that facility. Also, all youth have been removed from the Newman home as well.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 10, 2005

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Russell and unanimously carried, the minutes of August 10, 2005 were approved as submitted.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Vice Chair Stathatos reported that Chair Montano was awarded a commendation by the Board of Supervisors for over 61 years of exemplary volunteer service to the City and County of Los Angeles. Calling her an extraordinary and gracious woman, the lovely scroll signed by all 5 Supervisors listed a number of her remarkable accomplishments.

Chair Montano thanked Commissioner Russell for furnishing the delicious muffins.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported that the balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund remains at \$1,142.02.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

FACILITY/GROUP INSPECTION REPORTS

Leroy Boys Home - #62-3

Chair Montano inspected this facility on August 11th and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported. Chair

Montano noted that she was impressed that this facility has a full calendar of daily activities, outings, and entertainment for the residents. She further noted that this facility is a model for others to follow.

Manna Manor/Marbella - #67-1

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammagren visited this facility on August 15th and found no one at home; no inspection was conducted.

Mozell Pennington Boys Center - #70-3

Chair Montano and Commissioner Hammargren inspected this facility on August 15th and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

L.A. Youth Network - #61-3

Commissioner Bacio inspected this facility on August 11th and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

Commissioner Bacio noted that he spoke with several residents who seemed happy and well adjusted; all facility staff seemed to have a good working relationship with the residents.

Michelle Travis/41st Street - #69-1

Commissioner Bacio inspected this facility on August 16th and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

Commissioner Bacio noted that the facility was being painted and that the carpet was to be cleaned.

Penny Lane /Wilbur - #87-2

Commissioner Russell inspected this facility on August 15th and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported. Commissioner Russell noted that residents see a therapist twice a week; CSW's visit residents at school; residents are good students with one having straight A's; and that residents go swimming almost daily.

Penny Lane/Hayvenhurst - #87-3

Commissioner Russell inspected this facility on August 15th and gave a rating of **Satisfactory**. Area of concern: although there is an AWOL Incentive Program in place that awards the whole house a monetary reward for no AWOL's, they still have a problem. Commissioner Russell noted that the rooms are clean; the residents get vacations; tutoring is

available after school; and that facility staff reported that Probation is cooperative and that DCFS is very busy.

Penny Lane/Osborne - #86-1

Vice President Stathatos inspected this facility on August 11th and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

Aviva Center/Camino Palmero - #4-3

Vice Chair Stathatos inspected this facility on August 15th and gave a rating of **Satisfactory** with no areas of concern observed or reported.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Montano assigned inspection duties to Commissioners for the following week.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Scates

Commission Staff